

News from the Desk of the Executive Head

Well we have reached our half term holiday and I want to thank everyone for their support, understanding, resilience and of course following all our Covid guidelines and advice. A huge thank you particularly to the staff who continue to care, teach and support all the children in our care and always with a Stratford smile. I have been particularly proud of the children and their approach to learning. Last week when I showed visitors around our school (socially distanced of course) we received so many wonderful comments with regards to the purposeful learning in classrooms and respectful behaviour. Throughout this entire term it is clear the children have been so pleased to be back in their routines and with their friends. They wash their hands diligently and make space when necessary. Well done to them all.

I have just walked around the school to catch up with everyone and as usual everywhere is different. Year 6 were just heading off to PE to practice gymnastic skills, whilst Year 5 were about to start a scientific investigation on which materials make the best insulators. Year 4 had all the ipads and laptops out to do some research and practice times tables. It can be a tricky moment logging on as they try to remember their passwords and of course cope with technological issues such as the wifi not connecting but they manage. We would love it if our ipads and laptops increased and were updated in line with technology growth. I know The Friends of the School are looking at grants for this and the children would really appreciate it if we could raise lots of funds to have a whole class set so every child can access IT without having to share. If you would like to contribute to this great cause then please buy a number for FOSP dream draw or please make a donation to the fund. Thank you. Next I popped into Year 3 and it was so peaceful I thought they had left the building but no, they were all heads in books and enjoying a quiet reading session. Mrs Pearson was about to listen to children read and support them in choosing a text that will engage them. We love reading here at Stratford and there are so many books to choose from it can be difficult to make a choice but every staff member is here to help and share their thoughts. Year 2 however, were leaving the building as they went off to forest school! They love this time; climbing trees, digging in the mud and being in the outdoors. It was rainy but our world is wonderful no matter what the weather and we encourage them to listen to how things change in the rain and smell nature and look closely at how the rain affects trees. Then I finally made it to Year 1 and Reception where every child was engaged in a whole range of activities. Some children were writing and exploring their phonics. Darcey was writing all about penguins and how cute they are whilst others seemed to be on Christmas already!! There is also a huge pumpkin to explore and dissect and the children were keen to share what it looks like inside and how they have had a go at making their own pumpkins. Again some children were reading, whilst others practised their maths and all supported by the staff who constantly assess and monitor progress.

We are very excited next week to welcome builders to the school in half term. Our roof is getting a make-over. Maintaining a Victorian building is an on-going job and we are keen to ensure that repairs take place regularly. Some of our flat roofs need replacing and many of the slate tiles just need re-fixing to keep us all warm and dry. So next week scaffolding will be going up and on your return after half term we will make sure that there is a safe entrance and exit to the school playgrounds. Hopefully it will all be done by the end of November.

You're off to great places, today is your day. Your mountain is waiting so get on your way! – Dr Seuss

Have a fabulous half term holiday. Stay safe and well. Remember hands, face, space. See you on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Ov. 98.1% Y6 98.3% WINNER!!! Y5 97.6% Y4 97.8% The winner's 99.6% Y3 are Year 3 Y2 97.5% with 99.6% 98.5% Y1 Well Done! 97.1% YR 90% 100% 80% 85% 95%

Half Term Attendance by Class

Get Caught Reading!

We have had some fabulous photos so far to display on our 'Caught Reading' wall. Over half term please remember to 'catch' your child reading in fun and imaginative places and send the pictures in via eSchools or the school office email.



 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ ☆ ☆ **Dream Draw Winners!** ☆ ☆ FOSP's first Dream Draw has taken place this week and the ☆ ☆ winners are..... ☆ \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar 1st place - Huseyin Gurdag ☆ ☆ 2nd place - Jan Dixon ☆ \bigstar **3rd place - Florina Clewer** ☆ \bigstar \star This campaign has raised a total of £518.50 for the school this \bigstar 🖈 month. ☆ \bigstar \bigstar Thank you FOSP! \bigstar ☆

Mrs Humphriss



Reception

Here are some of the lovely things we have done during this half term.

The children have settled in well and enjoyed lots of new experiences in only 8 weeks.

See you after Half Term!



Last Friday Year 5 spent the afternoon with Miss Bradburn and Mrs Hill. They had the opportunity to take to the stage and consider stories and Myths from around the world about the Sun.

'Me, Hayden and Leah performed a play about Ra, the Egyptian God. He was the God of Chaos and so Apaphos sent him away and that made night-time' – Maia

'Martina, Mia and I learnt a Myth about animals with a Rabbit and an Owl. They had a fight because they couldn't agree on how much light and dark there should be. Owl wanted enough light to see but Rabbit wanted more. They had a meeting and agreed on daylight but other animals said they needed darkness too, so Rabbit created Night and Day' – Olivia.

Oscar, Mason and Boris read a Myth called the Spider and the Sun. They were on Earth and one side was dark and the other light. Possum, Buzzard and Spider tried to take the light to the dark side, but it didn't go well!

<u>Year 3</u>

At Forest School this week, Year 3 started their predator picture using colours made from the natural environment.



Spooktacular Lunch!

Thank you to our lunchtime team for putting on an amazing Halloween lunch today!









Raise money for

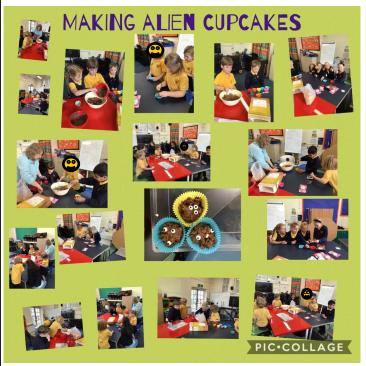
FOSP without moving

off your sofa!

FOSP Campaign

For more information please see the school website.

<u>Year 2</u>



Year 2 enjoyed making (and eating) their very own alien cupcakes.

Safeguarding

